Gulf Coast Hurricane Preparedness

National Weather Service
Mobile/Pensacola

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Contents and Editing: National Weather Service Mobile

Hurricane Preparedness Messages

2011

Every year, the National Weather Service issues its annual Atlantic Hurricane Season Outlook. The 2011 forecast calls for an above-average year of tropical cyclone formation across the Atlantic Basin. Of course, whether we have an active year or not is irrelevant. It only takes one storm to disrupt our economy and our lives.

Preparing you, your family, and your home before hurricane season begins allows you ample time to acquire all of your supplies and plan for your family's safe evacuation with relative ease. While you may not be affected every year from the impacts of a hurricane, when the time finally comes, you will be glad you prepared ahead of time.

The National Weather Service is proud to encourage every citizen to evaluate their readiness level as we enter the 2011 hurricane season.

Jeffrey Cupo, Meteorologist in Charge
National Weather Service, Mobile, AL

Last year we were fortunate. While the hurricane season was extremely active in the Atlantic basin, there were no significant local impacts. Another active season is expected this year, and we may not be as lucky as last. This publication will tell you what you need to know for the upcoming hurricane season. Now is the time to prepare!

Don Shepherd, Tropical Program Manager
National Weather Service, Mobile AL

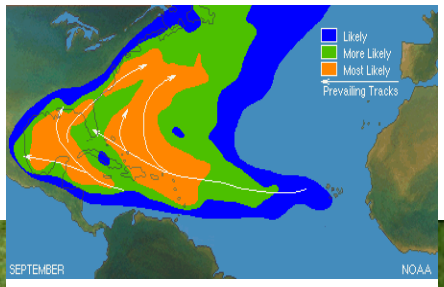
National Weather Service
Mobile/Pensacola
Courtesy: NWS MOB

THE HURRICANE

Hurricanes and tropical storms form over warm ocean waters, like those found in the Gulf of Mexico during the summer and fall of each year. On average, 11 tropical storms, 6 of which become hurricanes, develop in the Atlantic basin each hurricane season, which runs from June 1st to November 30th. The peak hurricane threat for the western Florida panhandle, southwest Alabama and interior southeast Mississippi is in August and September, but hurricanes can strike during every month of the hurricane season. Everyone living along the central Gulf Coast needs to be prepared for hurricanes and tropical storms. While the greatest damage resulting from land falling hurricanes or tropical storms is along the coast, inland areas well away from the coastline can also experience destructive winds, tornadoes and floods from tropical storms and hurricanes. Ten (10) hurricanes have either directly struck, or had major impacts over interior southeast Mississippi and along the southwest Alabama and western Florida panhandle coasts since 1990.

Definitions…

- Tropical Cyclone: A general term used to describe a tropical depression, tropical storm or hurricane.
- Tropical Depression: An organized system of persistent clouds and thunderstorms with a closed low-level circulation and maximum sustained winds of 38 mph or less.
- Tropical Storm: An organized system of strong thunderstorms with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph.
- Hurricane: An intense tropical weather system with a well defined circulation and maximum sustained winds of 74 mph or greater.
- Storm Surge: An elevated dome of water above normal sea level that is built up and pushed toward shore by the force of the winds blowing around the tropical cyclone.



Peak of Season Climatology
Courtesy: NOAA/NHC

ALL Hurricane Strikes
1909-2009
Courtesy: NHC

MAJOR Hurricane Strikes
1909-2009
Courtesy: NHC

HURRICANE FORECASTS & ADVISORIES

The National Hurricane Center (NHC) in Miami, FL is the official source for tropical cyclone advisories and forecasts, and is responsible for issuing tropical cyclone watches and warnings for the United States.

Some commonly used Tropical Cyclone Products

Public Advisories
Forecast Discussions
Wind Speed Probability Forecasts
Tropical Weather Outlooks
Hurricane Local Statements

Tropical Watches and Warnings

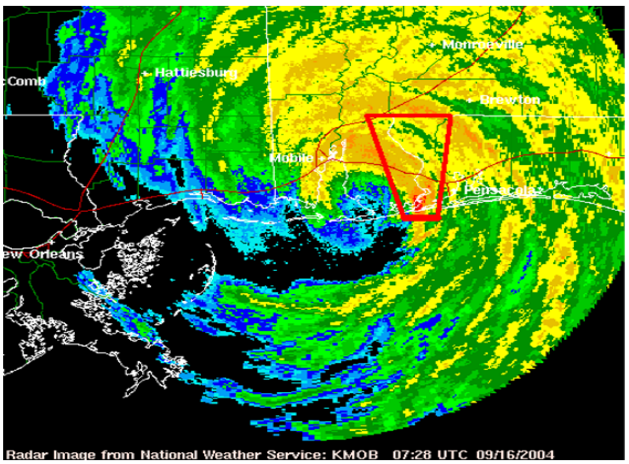
Hurricane/Tropical Storm Watch:

Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions POSSIBLE within 48 hours.

Hurricane /Tropical Storm Warning:

Hurricane or Tropical Storm conditions EXPECTED within 36 hours.

Extreme Wind Warning: *Short duration warnings issued by the NWS to provide the public with advance notice of the onset of extreme sustained winds, usually associated with the eyewall of a major*



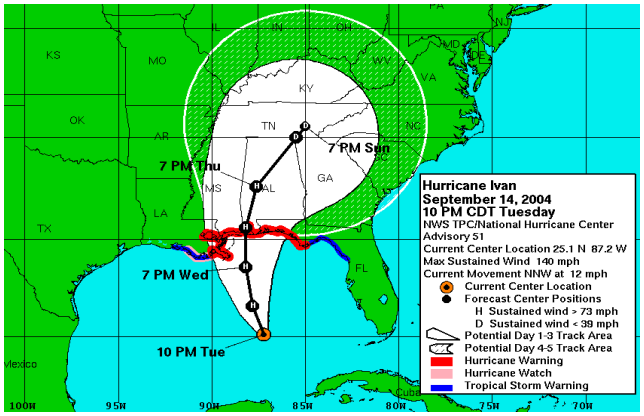
Above: Example of a Extreme Wind Warning Polygon

Utilizing and Interpreting NHC's Forecast Advisory

The white uncertainty cone of the forecast advisory represents the 10-year average error. The center of the tropical cyclone will remain in the white error cone only 67% of the time.

Remember that hurricane conditions can be felt hundreds of miles away from the center of the storm.

DO NOT focus solely on the exact forecast track!



Additional Weather Information

National Weather Service, Mobile, AL – www.srh.noaa.gov/mob
National Hurricane Center (NHC) – www.nhc.noaa.gov

WINDS AND TORNADOES

Hurricane force winds of 74 mph or more can destroy buildings, mobile homes, trees and power lines. Debris such as signs, roofing material, siding and small items left outside become dangerous and damaging flying missiles during a hurricane. Winds associated with a hurricane are most intense near the center of the storm, in a region called the eyewall. As a hurricane moves inland winds begin to rapidly decrease, but hurricane force winds can sometimes be felt as far as 150 inland from the coast. A general rule-of-thumb is wind speeds will decrease by 50% within the first 12 hours of landfall. Therefore, the faster the hurricane is moving, the further inland the hurricane force winds will be experienced. It is imperative to ensure that your home is well constructed to minimize the damage from wind. See the important home preparation tips elsewhere in this guide for a few cost effective home improvement tips that can help you reduce your damage from a hurricane.

MOBILE HOME RESIDENTS MUST EVACUATE!!!

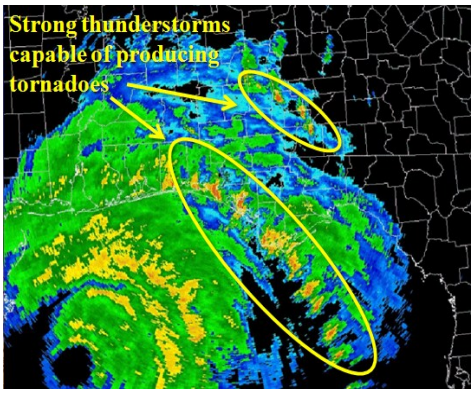
No mobile home or manufactured home-no matter how new it is-can provide safe shelter from hurricane force winds.

Straps or other tie-downs **will not** protect a mobile home from the high winds associated with a hurricane.

Mobile home residents **must evacuate** when told to do so by local authorities.

The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale

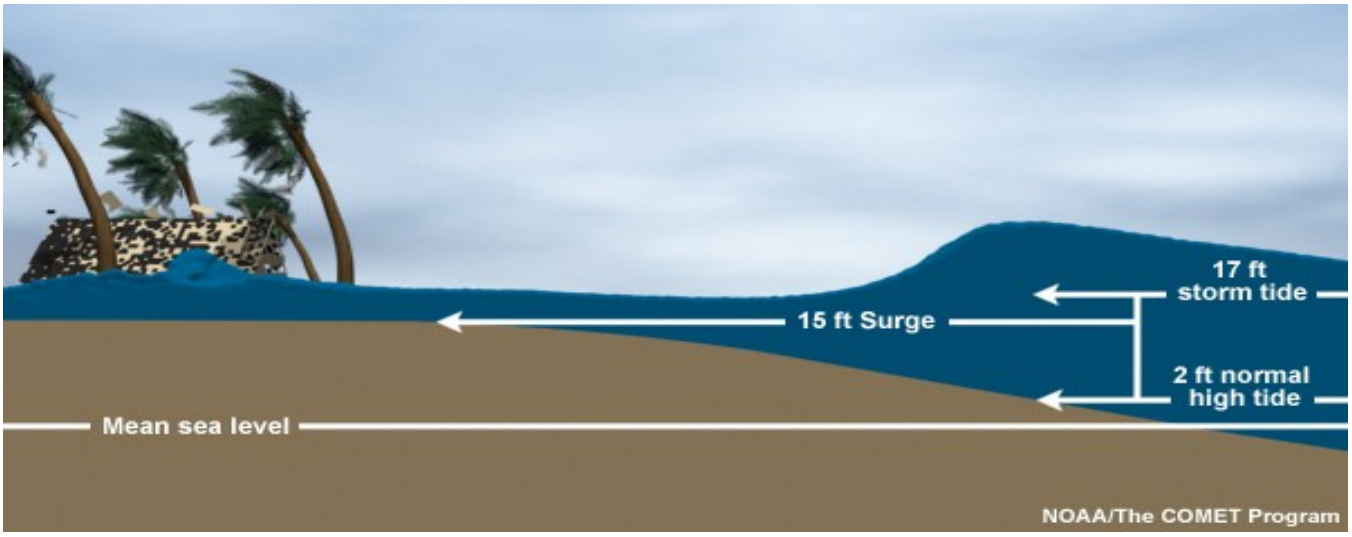
Category 1- Winds 74 to 95 mph
Category 2 - Winds 96 to 110 mph
Category 3 – Winds 111 to 130 mph (major hurricane)
Category 4 – Winds 131 to 155 mph (major hurricane)
Category 5 – Winds greater than 155 mph (major hurricane)



Hurricanes can also produce **tornadoes**, which add to the storms destructive power. Tornadoes are most likely to occur in the right-front quadrant of the hurricane, and are often found embedded in the rainbands well away from the center of the storm. However, they can also occur near the eyewall. Some hurricanes seem to produce very few tornadoes, while others develop multiple ones. Studies have shown that more than half of the landfalling hurricanes produce at least one tornado. In 2004, Hurricane Ivan, which made landfall on the Alabama Gulf coast, spawned 117 tornadoes over a three day period. Tornadoes associated with hurricanes are generally less intense than those that are produced by supercell thunderstorms, but when added to the larger area of hurricane-force winds, they can still produce substantial damage and be potentially deadly.

STORM SURGE

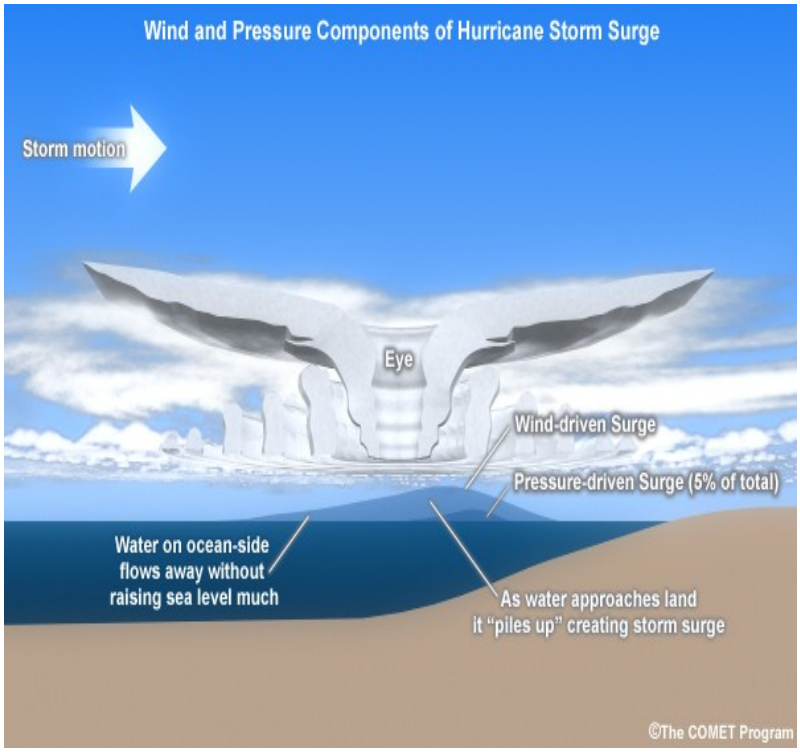
Storm surge, the wall of water that is pushed toward the shoreline as a hurricane moves ashore, poses the greatest threat to life and property along the coast. Historically, storm surge claims nine out of ten victims along the shoreline. Storm surge is highest near and just to the right of where the eye of the hurricane crosses the coast. The advancing surge combines with the normal tides to create what is known as the storm tide. A major hurricane can produce a storm tide which is tens of feet higher than normal water levels. In addition, wind driven waves superimposed on top of the storm tide can cause significant damage to structures along the immediate coast. Many buildings can withstand hurricane force winds until their foundations, undermined by erosion, fail.



The rise in water level can cause severe flooding in coastal areas, particularly when the storm tide coincides with the normal high tide cycle. The level of the storm tide in a particular area is partially determined by the slope of the continental shelf. A shallow slope of the continental shelf, such as along the Mississippi and Alabama Gulf coasts will allow for a greater storm tide to inundate the coast. Communities along a steeper continental shelf, such as along the western Florida panhandle Gulf coast, will not see as much storm tide inundation, although large breaking waves can still produce significant damage

Photos Courtesy
NOAA/COMET Program

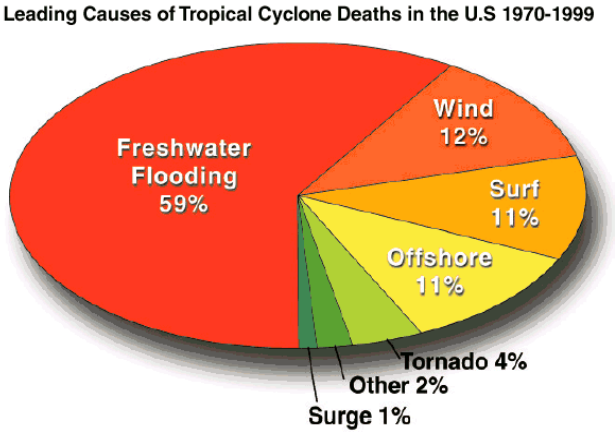
In general, the more intense the hurricane, and the closer a community is to the center, right quadrant of a storm, the larger and more destructive the storm surge will be. There are a number of other factors that also factor into the determination of maximum storm surge for any location along the coast. These include forward speed and size of the hurricane, the angle of approach to the coast, central pressure (minimal contribution in comparison to the wind) of the storm, and the shape and characteristics of features along the coast, such as bays and estuaries.



There is always uncertainty about how intense a storm will be when it finally makes landfall, and exactly where it will make landfall. Emergency managers and local officials balance that uncertainly with the human and economic risks to their community. This is why most emergency managers plan for a storm one category higher than what is forecast. This is a reasonable precaution to help minimize the loss of life from hurricanes. hose living in coastal and near coastal areas should know the evacuation zone that they live in.. When local officials declared an evacuation for your zone, move to the nearest possible evacuation destination outside of the danger

INLAND FLOODING

When it comes to hurricanes, wind speed and storm surge does not tell the whole story. The most deadly hazard associated with tropical systems is inland freshwater flooding. Over the past 30 to 40 years, inland freshwater flooding has killed more people than has any other tropical cyclone related weather hazard.



Intense rainfall is not directly related to the intensity of a tropical cyclone, either. In fact, some of the greatest rainfall amounts have occurred during weaker storms that drift slowly or stall over an area. Very slow moving tropical storms and hurricanes can produce tremendous amounts of rainfall in a relatively short period of time. This often results in disastrous flooding, which can be a major threat to communities hundreds of miles from the coast.

What can you do?

- When you hear hurricane or tropical storm, think inland flooding.
- Determine whether or not you live in a potential flood zone.
- If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Keep abreast of road conditions through the news media.
- Move to a safe area before access is cut off by flood water.
- Do not attempt to cross flowing water, either on foot or by vehicle.
- Develop a flood emergency plan.
- Have flood insurance, flood damage is not usually covered by homeowners insurance.

Brewton, AL Flooding.
Courtesy of Alabama Forestry Commission

Never drive across flooded roadways or around barricades. Statics clearly show the high risk of driving in or around flooded roads and low spots. Often, individuals will attempt to drive through flooded roads, only to be whisked away by rushing waters. The rule of thumb is simple: If you cannot see the road or its line markings, do not drive through the waters. Road surfaces could be washed away or large debris might be located below the surface. If your vehicle is caught in rising water, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

RIP CURRENTS

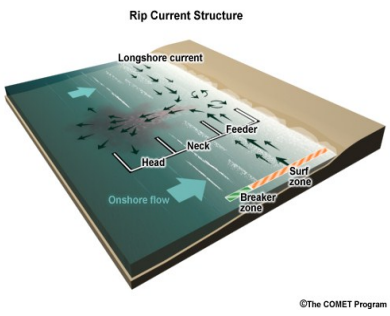
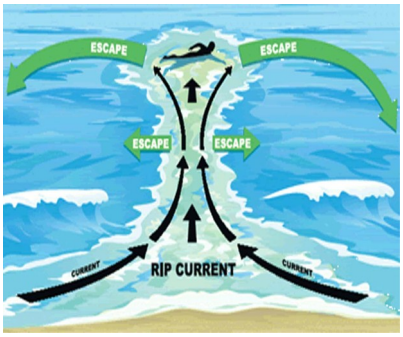


Photo Courtesy:
NOAA/COMET Program

A Rip Current is a strong current or channel of rapidly flowing water moving AWAY from the shore that develops when excess water is piled against the shoreline during certain weather patterns. While rip currents can form at just about anytime, they are very likely to be present in the high winds and rough seas that accompany tropical storms and hurricanes, so people should stay out of the water when a storm is approaching their area.

A tropical cyclone does not have to be directly affecting the area for dangerous rip currents to develop along the coast. Anytime a tropical system is in the Gulf of Mexico, even if centered a great distance from the central Gulf coast region, large swells and above normal tides well in advance of the storm could still combine to produce dangerous rip currents along the beaches. As a result, many beachgoers will likely be at risk of getting caught in a rip current even though the weather appears tranquil at the time, and no evacuation orders have as yet been given.



If you are caught in a rip current:

1. Don't fight the current
2. Swim out of the current, then back to shore
3. If you can't escape, float or tread water
4. If you need help, call or wave for assistance

Both Florida and Alabama use the five flag system to alert beachgoers of surf conditions. Flags are posted at all public beaches, where surf conditions are monitored throughout each day. When red flags are flying, conditions are life threatening to anyone entering the surf. Please remember, however, that the absence of red flags does not assure safe conditions. In some locations, it is illegal to enter the water when the double red flag is being flown.

Note: No flag warning system is used in Mobile County along the beaches of Dauphin Island, but dangerous surf hazards can still occasionally exists.

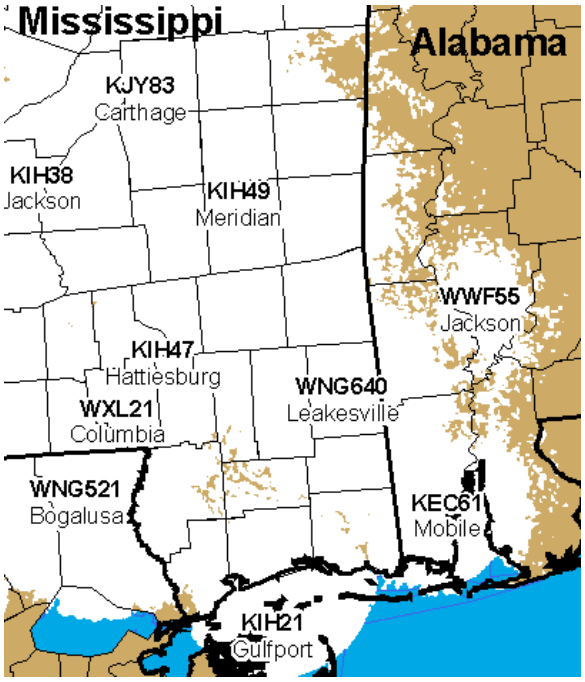
NWS ALL HAZARDS WEATHER RADIO

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR), the official "voice" of the National Weather Service (NWS), provides updated weather information continuously, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Watches, warnings, advisories, forecasts, current weather conditions, and climate data are broadcast in three to five minute cycles on NWR stations across the nation.

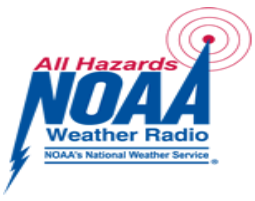
To listen to NWR broadcasts, a special radio capable of receiving signals in the Very High Frequency (VHF) public service radio band is required. Seven frequencies from 162.400 to 162.550 megahertz (MHz) are used. Weather radios can be purchased at most electronics stores and online. Prices of these radios vary from location to location and depend on the type of radio purchased.

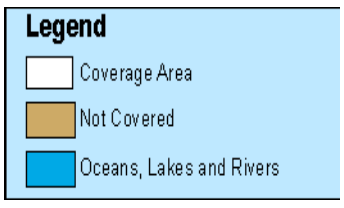
The accompanying maps show the names and locations of all NOAA Weather Radio transmitters located in the southeast Mississippi, south Alabama and northwest Florida. For respective SAME codes, visit: www.nws.noaa.gov/nwr/indexnw.htm

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards is useful anytime, but it becomes especially important during severe weather. During threatening weather, normal broadcasts are interrupted, and the focus is shifted to the local severe weather threat. Watches and warnings are given the highest priority and are frequently updated. NWS is a major part of the Emergency Alert System (EAS) that disseminates critical warning information rapidly through commercial broadcast outlets. In an emergency, each NWR station will transmit a warning alarm tone signal followed by information on the emergency situation. This signal is capable of activating specially designed receivers by increasing the volume or producing a visual and/or audible alarm. Though not all weather band receivers have this capability, all weather radios can receive the emergency broadcasts.



NOAA NWR Area Listings		
KEC-61	Near Mobile, AL	162.550 MHz
KEC-86	Milton, FL	162.400 MHz
KIH-59	Dozier, AL	162.550 MHz
WNG-607	Greenville, AL	162.425 MHz
WNG-640	Leakesville, MS	162.425 MHz
WNG-646	Brewton, AL	162.475 MHz
WWF-55	Jackson, AL	162.500 MHz





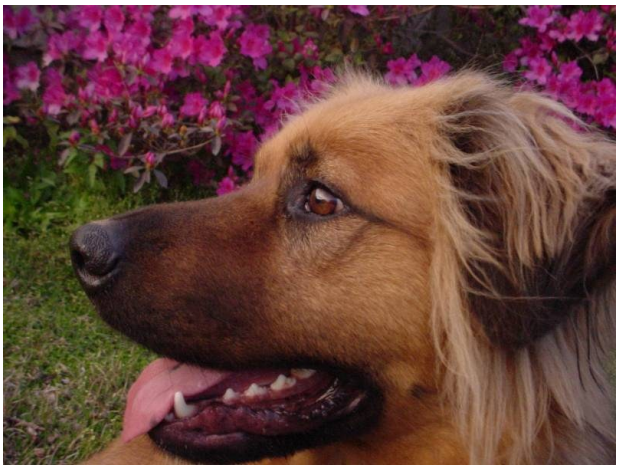
TAKING CARE OF PETS

To be sure you can properly take care of your pet during a weather emergency, such as a hurricane Katrina, or during an evacuation, you must plan ahead. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides the following suggestions.

If you have to leave your home, take your pet with you if at all possible. You are the best person to take care of your pet. Also, as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) pointed out in a brochure it issued about preparing for a disaster, if the situation is dangerous for people, it is dangerous for animals, too.

But, before you leave, know where you can take your pet. Find out which motels or hotels are "pet friendly," or which ones will accept pets in an emergency. Or plan to go to the house of a friend or relative who will permit you to bring your pet.

Before you have to travel, get your pet used to a crate. Familiar surroundings might help ease a pet's anxiety. And getting an animal into a crate for travel will be easier once the animal is used to it. Take pet food, medicines, vaccination records, and information about pet insurance if you have a policy. Assemble all of this into a disaster kit that you can grab as you leave.

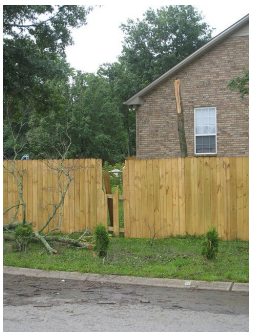


If you get trapped away from your home due to a disaster or other emergency, your pet will be better off if you have already made arrangements with your neighbor or nearby friend to take care of the animal. The temporary caretaker should have phone numbers to reach you (a cell phone number may be the best), and all the instruction necessary to properly care for the animal. Those instructions should include a signed authorization for veterinary care, and financial limits to the veterinary care.

Emergencies can make pets display unexpected or uncharacteristic behaviors. Well-behaved animals may become aggressive and defensive after a major disruption in their lives. The animal may not return to more typical behavior for several weeks. Be careful releasing an animal after an emergency, especially in unfamiliar surroundings. Make sure it cannot escape. Do not release the animal outside until you know the area is safe. Allow your pet plenty of time to rest and get used to new surroundings. Provide familiar toys, if possible. The Department of Homeland Security has prepared a detailed brochure entitled "Preparing Your Pets for Emergencies Makes Sense. Get Ready Now." The brochure describes what pet owners can do to prepare for an emergency.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Important Home Preparation Tips for Hurricane Season



Mobile Homes

- Check tie-downs for rust or breakage.

Landscaping

- Trim trees, shrubbery and dead limbs, especially ones close to your home.
- Repair or replace broken or damaged fences.
- Shredded bark is preferred instead of small gravel or stone bedding.

Roofing

- Inspect the roof for loose tiles, shingles or debris. Consider replacing old or damaged shingles with new ones rated for hurricane force winds.
- Check for and/or install hurricane clips to secure roof trusses to side walls.
- Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts.

Doors

- Reinforce garage doors and tracks or replace with a hurricane tested door.

Photo courtesy:
LAS Enterprises

- Reinforce double entry doors with heavy duty foot and head bolts.
- Use a security dead bolt with a one inch minimum bolt length.
- Doors may be shuttered, but one entry must be left easily accessible.

Windows

- If possible, install tested/manufactured hurricane shutters. Inspect existing shutters to ensure they are in good working order. Alternative: Use 5/8" or greater exterior grade plywood secured by 2 ½" screws or special clips. Obtain wood and fasteners, cut wood to size (labeling pieces), pre-drill holes and place anchors on homes. When not in use, store shutters or plywood lying flat to avoid warping.

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Protecting Your Boat – Marine Preparations

Important tips for boat owners:

- Check your marina contract for policies and procedures for hurricanes.
- Check with the manufacturer for proper ways to secure your boat during a storm.
- Consider moving arrangements well in advance of an approaching storm.
- Trailer boats should be removed from the water and securely stored at least 48 hours before a hurricane is expected to make landfall.
- Purchase necessary hurricane materials such as additional mooring lines, crew anchors, fenders, fender boards, chafing gear, and anchors.
- Safe storm moorings should consist of good condition ropes of sufficient diameter and length, with at least three to four substantial anchor points.
- Do not moor parallel to bank. Receding tides often breach or capsize boats in this type of anchorage.

Automobiles:

Make sure to have your vehicles serviced regularly and in good working order during hurricane season so they will be ready for use should you need to evacuate.

EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

- **Water** - at least 1 gallon daily per person for 3 to 7 days

- **Food** - at least enough for 3 to 7 days
  — non-perishable packaged or canned food / juices
  — foods for infants or the elderly
  — snack foods
  — non-electric can opener
  — cooking tools / fuel
  — paper plates / plastic utensils

- **Blankets / Pillows, etc.**

- **Clothing** - seasonal / rain gear/ sturdy shoes

- **First Aid Kit / Medicines / Prescription Drugs**

- **Special Items** - for babies and the elderly

- **Toiletries / Hygiene items / Moisture wipes**

- **Flashlight / Batteries**

- **Radio -** Battery operated and NOAA weather radio

- **Telephones -** Fully charged cell phone with extra battery and a traditional (not cordless) telephone set

- **Cash (with some small bills) and Credit Cards** - Banks and ATMs may not be available for extended periods

- **Keys**

- **Toys, Books and Games**

- **Important documents** - in a waterproof container or watertight re-sealable plastic bag
  — insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, Social Security card, etc.

- **Tools** - keep a set with you during the storm

- **Vehicle fuel tanks filled**

- **Pet care items**
  — proper identification / immunization records / medications
  — ample supply of food and water
  — a carrier or cage
  — muzzle and leash

FINAL CHECKLIST

Actions to Take When a Storm is in the Gulf of Mexico

- Listen frequently to radio, TV, or NOAA All Hazards Radio for bulletins and forecasts of the storms progress.
- Double check items in your emergency supply kit.
- Fuel and service your vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie-downs.
- Make sure you have supplies to survive on your own for at least 72 hours, but preferably for up to one week, if you plan on staying.
- Board up windows (if shutters do not exists). Do not use tape, it provides no protection.
- Store lawn furniture and other loose, light weight objects, such as garbage cans, patio plants and garden tools.
- Get plenty of extra cash in case power goes out and ATM's do not work.
- Garage or store vehicles that are not being used.
- Follow instructions issued by local officials. **EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY IF ORDERED TO DO SO!**

Final Actions to Take if Leaving

- Turn off propane tanks.
- Unplug small appliances.
- Turn refrigerator and/or freezer to coldest setting.
- Turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Notify family members of your evacuation plans.
- Lower water level in swimming pool by one foot.
- Lock home securely.
- Board up remaining doors and brace garage door.
- Take pets with you, if possible.

Final Actions to Take if Staying

- Close storm shutters.
- Turn refrigerator and/or freezer to coldest setting and open only if necessary. (Note: 25 pounds of dry ice will keep a 10-cubic foot freezer below freezing for 3-4 days).
- Follow instructions from emergency managers and be prepared to turn off utilities if ordered to do so.
- Board up remaining doors (leave an emergency exit), brace garage door, and remain inside. Stay away from boarded up windows.
- Take refuge in a predetermined safe room, such as an interior closet, bathroom or hallway.
- Beware of the calm winds in the eye of the storm and do not venture outside. Some of the strongest winds may occur shortly after the eye passes.
- **DO NOT EXPECT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TO BE OF ANY ASSISTANCE DURING A LANDFALLING HURRICANE!**

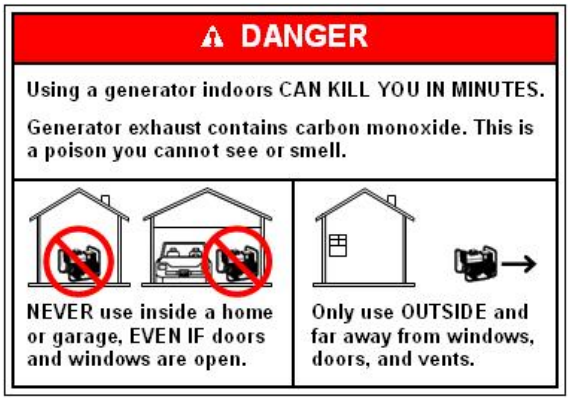
PORTABLE GENERATOR SAFETY

After a hurricane, primary electrical power will likely be off for hours, or even days after the storm. During this time, many people use portable power generators to run some essential utilities such as lighting, air conditioning and refrigeration. However, running a portable generator creates certain inherent hazards and dangers, and every year people are injured or killed in incidents related to portable generator use.

The primary hazards to avoid when using a portable generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electrical shock or electrocution, and fire. Follow the directions supplied with the generator.

The following information, developed by the American Red Cross, with technical advice from the Centers for Disease Control and prevention, the National Fire Protection Association and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, is provided to address questions about using a generator when disaster strikes.

Under no circumstances should portable generators be used indoors. Including inside a garage, carport, basement, crawlspace, or other enclosed or partially-enclosed area, even with ventilation. Opening doors and windows, or using fans, will not prevent the buildup of CO in the home. Even if you cannot smell exhaust fumes, you may still be exposed to CO. If you start to feel sick, dizzy, or weak while using a generator, get to fresh air RIGHT AWAY – DO NOT DELAY.



Graphic Courtesy of Consumer Product Safety Commission

Be sure to place the generator AWAY from windows, doors and vents that could allow CO to come indoors.

Keep the generator dry and do not use in rain or wet conditions. To protect the generator from moisture, operate it on a dry surface under an open canopy-like structure, such as under a tarp held up by poles. Dry your hands if wet before touching the generator.

Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling.

Plug appliances directly into the generator. Or, use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin. **Never try to power the house wiring by plugging the generator into a wall outlet**, a practice known as “backfeeding”. This is an extremely dangerous practice that presents an electrocution risk to utility workers and neighbors served by the same utility transformer.

For more information on generator safety, please call the American Red Cross or visit them online at www.redcross.org

AFTER THE STORM

IF YOU EVACUATED, WAIT FOR AN ALL CLEAR FROM CITY, COUNTY OR STATE OFFICIALS BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO RETURN TO YOUR HOME. BE PREPARED TO SHOW PROOF OF RESIDENCE UPON RETURN.

General

Be cautious of structural damage and downed trees and power lines. Do not attempt to move structural supports or large pieces of debris.

DO NOT run power generators indoors. Inhalation of carbon monoxide from the generator exhaust can cause death. Ensure exhaust is well ventilated.

DO NOT use open flames indoors.

Restrict your driving to emergency use only. Road conditions may be unsafe until road debris is cleared.

Debris

Cities and counties will likely publish a schedule and instructions for debris pick-up and removal. Debris usually cannot be removed from private property.

Construction materials, vegetative debris, household hazardous waste and household appliances will need to be placed into separate piles and moved to the curbside for pick-up.

Water

Listen for instructions regarding public water supply. Use only bottled, boiled or treated water until you know that your water supply is safe.

You can use household chlorine bleach to treat water for drinking or cleaning. Add 1/8 teaspoon or bleach per gallon of clear water, or ¼ teaspoon of bleach per gallon if water is cloudy. Allow water to stand for 30 minutes before using.

Utilities

Check for gas leaks. If you smell or hear gas leaking, leave immediately. DO NOT use the phone or turn on lights in your home. Call the gas company from a neighbor's phone.

Report any visible damage of electrical lines to the power company. Turn off power at main breaker if any electrical equipment or circuits have been exposed to water.

DO NOT connect generators to your home's electrical circuits. If a generator is on line when electrical service is restored, it can become a major fire hazard. Also, line workers working to restore power will be endangered if a generator is hooked up to a home's circuits.

Sewage

If you suspect water or sewage lines are damaged, do not use your plumbing (toilets, sinks, etc.). Contact the water company or a plumber for repairs.

Interior Cleanup

Disinfect and dry interior buildings and items inside. This will prevent growth of some bacteria, viruses, mold and mildew that can cause illness.

Clean walls, floors, and counter tops with soap and water. Disinfect them with a solution of 1 cup bleach to 5 gallons of water.

Wash all clothes and linens in hot water. Air dry and spray all un-washable items with disinfectant. Steam clean carpets. Throw away all items touched by water than cannot be disinfected.

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION

National Weather Service, Mobile
Jeff Garmon (WCM) or Jeff Cupo (MIC)
8400 Airport Blvd, Bldg 11
Mobile AL 36608
Phone: 251-633-6443
WWW.SRH.NOAA.GOV/MOB

Other useful websites:
http://www.srh.noaa.gov/mob/?n=tropical
http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/